

STARK JEWISH NEWS

A Publication of Canton Jewish Community Federation



L'CHAIM TO THE SJN

Page 3



50 Years Hazzan Braun

Page 4

Faith and Football

Page 18

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IN THIS ISSUE

ARTICLES

L'Chaim to Stark Jewish News	3
Celebrating 50 Years	4
Chadash: A Year in Review	6-7
Rabbi Spitzer	8
Art Exhibit at Beit Ha'am	11
Your Gift, Your Community, Our Future	12
Recipe: Blintz Souffle	13
Jewish American Icons	16-17
Faith & Football	18
Through The Years	19

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

JFS Adult Programs	10
Service Schedules	14
Community Calendar	14
Donations	15
Life Cycles	15

SUBMIT YOUR STORY TO THE SJN

Have a favorite family recipe, a story to share, or lifecycle announcements? We'd love to feature voices from our community! Your contributions help make our newspaper a reflection of the people we serve.

Submit your ideas to Chris Lange at:
Christine@jewishcanton.org

COVER ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Sam Lilenfield is a multidisciplinary artist and designer based in Canton, Ohio. Her practice explores the quiet significance of everyday objects and living beings, transforming familiar subjects through a vivid, color-driven visual language. Rooted in optimism and play, her work invites moments of pause, offering an antidote to the heaviness of daily life and celebrating the beauty found in the ordinary. Lilenfield also serves as the Gallery and Marketing Manager at Strauss Studios, where she works to champion contemporary artists and cultivate meaningful connections through exhibition programming.

Instagram @sammlilenfield

Website sammlilenfield.com



L'CHAIM

TO THE STARK JEWISH NEWS

WRITTEN BY: ORI AKRISH, CEO

I'll be honest with you. When I stepped into this role in December 2023, the Stark Jewish News was not exactly what I was most excited about. There were deadlines. There were advertisers. There were production schedules that had a way of arriving faster than expected. As a new CEO trying to find my footing, I looked at the SJN and thought: is this really where my energy should go? I had visions of bold community programming, big fundraising initiatives, new partnerships. One of my first thoughts, if I'm being candid, was to find someone else to take this off my plate entirely.

I was wrong. It didn't take long before I realized what the SJN actually is: a direct line to you. Every month, I have the chance to share what's on my mind, what I'm learning, where I've been. When I come back from a conference energized by something a thought leader said, I can put it on the page. When I have an idea I want to think through out loud with the community, this is where I do it. And you respond. People have called me and written to me after articles, sometimes just to offer kind words, sometimes to share a detail or piece of history I didn't know, sometimes to say they want to get involved. We have even heard from people outside our community who came across our little paper and were moved by what they found in it. JFNA has taken notice of some of our initiatives on a national level. That feedback loop is something I didn't anticipate, and it has genuinely changed how I think about this publication.

The SJN turned out to be less of an obligation and more of a conversation, one we get to have with you every month. And when that conversation leads somewhere, you feel it. The response we got when we introduced the Pesach Pop-Up Market, the way the L'Chaim Fund took root in this community, in no small part because we had a vehicle to share the idea, explain it, and let it breathe in print. I realized the SJN wasn't pulling me away from the real work. It was part of it. Once I understood that, we started asking a bigger question: what could this paper really be?

The answer our team landed on was simple: make it

ours. No more filler. No more recycled content that could run in any Jewish publication in any city. We wanted this to be a Canton paper, written by Canton people, about Canton people, for Canton people.

What's followed has been something I genuinely look forward to every month. Our cooking feature has become a community favorite, celebrating the food traditions and recipes that sit at the heart of Jewish life. Community members have shared their own family recipes with us, dishes passed down through generations that now live on these pages for all of us to try. We have staff writing personal stories and spotlighting the quiet, meaningful work happening inside Jewish Family Services. Our staff writer profiles influential Jewish Americans, connecting their stories to our community and to the broader American Jewish experience. The stunning Judaica cover art gracing the cover of this issue of the Stark Jewish News magazine is created by a talented local artist who is very much one of our own, a proud member of the Canton Jewish community whose work will now serve as the face of everything we put into the world. And then there's "Looking Back," our window into Canton's Jewish past. More than a few of you have opened a page and found your own face, or someone you love, staring back at you. That never gets old.

Which brings us to today, and to this magazine you're holding in your hands.

The format change isn't just cosmetic. A magazine lets us do more: bigger photography, bolder design, ads that actually look good, articles with room to breathe. It's a new era for the SJN, and I think it reflects where this community is headed, a community that takes pride in telling its own story, in its own way.

I used to think the Stark Jewish News was a task on my list. Now I know it's one of our most powerful tools and one of our most genuine expressions of who we are. I can't wait to see what we create together in this next chapter, and I'm grateful every month that you're reading it.

L'chaim.

CELEBRATING

50

YEARS OF SERVICE!

WRITTEN BY: LINDA ALPERIN



50 YEARS is half a century! 50 YEARS of service is no small task! On June 13th, a very special Shabbat was celebrated at Shaaray Torah Synagogue. The congregation honored Hazzan Bruce Braun for his 50 years of service to the synagogue and community. Throughout these years, Cantor Braun has been a constant pillar of faith, education, kindness, and outreach.

In July 1976, while attending college, Bruce accepted the position of Ba'al Koray (Torah reader). Over the years, he assumed other responsibilities such as leader of Shacharit (morning services) and blowing the Shofar for High Holiday services. With the understanding he would train for certification as a Hazzan, in August 1981, the Synagogue hired Cantor Braun as their full-time cantor with the title of Ba'al Tefillah (prayer leader). That year he began his decades of training students to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. In his spare time, he started cantorial lessons with Cantor Stephen Stein of Akron and the late Cantor Moshe Taube of Pittsburgh. In 1985, Cantor Braun passed his certification test, earned the official title of "Hazzan," and became a member of the Cantors Assembly. In July 2000, he became the sole Spiritual Leader of Shaaray Torah. He then led the congregation through a lengthy transition from a one-building entity to a shared LLC community organization, housing Shaaray Torah, Temple Israel and the Canton Jewish Community Federation. In recent years, he has taken an additional part-time position with the Cantors Assembly.

Besides synagogue duties, Cantor Braun has been involved in many larger community projects, including a televised Passover Seder; participating in several Holocaust Memorial Services in the Statehouse in Columbus; and participating in the local annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. From 1987 until 2020 when Covid hit, he made yearly visits to Lake Cable Elementary School during the holiday season to teach first graders about the Festival of Hanukkah. Also, as part of the Jewish Theological Seminary's Legacy Heritage Grant program, he mentored rabbinical students, each spending weekends and holidays here in Canton, over a one-year internship. Throughout the years Cantor Braun has performed in numerous Cantors Concerts in Akron, Canton and Cleveland. He and his friends, Terry Katz and the late David Wolinsky, formed a musical group called the Mazeltones; and they performed for a number of Jewish organizations in northeast Ohio. Because he is such a big sports fan, especially of baseball, his wife surprised him for his fortieth birthday by secretly submitting an audition tape to the Cleveland Guardians team; and that summer he performed the national anthem at a game.

In 2018, Cantor Braun received an Honorary Doctor of Music from the Jewish Theological Seminary for his service to Shaaray Torah and the Canton Jewish community. During the June 13, 2026 Shabbat Service, in addition to the many tributes from congregants and colleagues, City Councilman Bill Smuckler presented Cantor Braun with a Canton City Council proclamation honoring his 50 years of service.

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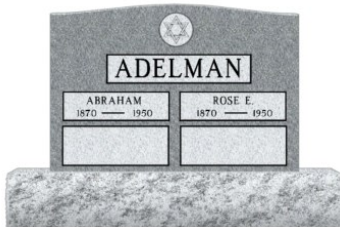
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CHADASH 2025-2026: A YEAR IN REVIEW





WRITTEN BY: BOBI BERRINGER

Chadash completed its 2025–2026 school year on May 17, 2026. Throughout the year, we worked to strengthen our educational program by shifting to a more transparent and structured approach to classroom curriculum and instruction. A new curriculum outline was implemented for all teachers and shared directly with families to help foster stronger communication and understanding between home and school. In addition, student progress reports were introduced this year to provide families with regular updates on student learning and development.

Chadash also expanded opportunities for Hebrew learning by offering both in-person Hebrew classes on Sundays and an online learning option through Atlanta Hebrew Connection for families needing additional flexibility.

Our students and families enjoyed a wide variety of programs and celebrations together throughout the school year. These included Bagels in the Sukkah, our Consecration Ceremony honoring six students, the annual Purim Spiel with Hamantaschen sharing, a Chanukah Party, and our End-of-the-Year Celebration held in

partnership with the Canton Police Department. Students also participated in a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a Winter Art Contest, a "Tour of Passover" program, and the annual Chadash Shabbat service honoring the Canton Police Department.

We are proud of all our Chadash students and hope our students and families are enjoying a wonderful summer break. We look forward to hearing about the adventures and special memories you are making this summer!

GETTING READY TO GET READY

WRITTEN BY: RABBI JOHN SPITZER

It is an honor for this “old Rabbi” to write the first rabbinic message for this new format Stark Jewish News. This first magazine format is published at the end of the Hebrew Month of Av, the month which Jews begin to ramp up to our High Holy Days, and the beginning of the month of Elul during which our spiritual practices of preparation for the new year continue in earnest. Thus, this column is about “getting ready to get ready.”

Elul begins Friday, August 14th and our spiritual tradition urges us to embark upon a month-long journey of Cheshbon Nefesh, an accounting of the soul or spirit. If we take the opportunity to seriously delve into our deeds and motivations of the past year, to identify our transgressions, missed opportunities and often embarrassing oversights... the ways in which we missed the mark of righteous living, our Days of Awe can truly be Awesome. So, in these few days before Elul, how do we begin to begin?

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEANING AND PURPOSE

In the 38th tractate of the Babylonian Talmud*, Masechet Alexa, that sage voice defines Meaning as, “Understanding our past experiences and finding significance in them” and Purpose as “Setting goals and taking action to shape our future.” Each of these terms is a binary proposition. Understanding our past experiences must be linked to finding significance in them. Without contemplating their significance, our soul reckoning becomes simply a list of misdeeds and opportunities. In the description of purpose, setting goals is easy to do, but unless the goals are connected to taking action, this is a futile activity.

HEAVEN KNOWS...

All this is to say that our impending High Holy Days with their traditions and rituals have the potential to be life changing, comforting and strengthening. During the Yomim Noraim we have the opportunity to experience and strengthen our sense of Community as we come together for prayer and self-examination. We can deepen our lives by seeing beyond what we have, how we look, and the material goals of daily life. Taken seriously, we can be more than a cog in the wheel of Jewish existence and human life. We can make a difference. And Heaven knows, in this chaotic time of political, economic and social upheaval at home and abroad, aspiring to be something more is a holy endeavor.

**I know there are 37 tractates in the Babylonian Talmud...the reference to a 38th tractate is an attempt at rabbinic humor...the equivalent to a “dad joke”. Please don’t call me to point out the error!*



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We are creating programs for you that provide education, entertainment and overall bring our community together. If you have any suggestions or would like to present a topic, please let us know. We look forward to having you join us! All are welcomed. Email Leanne at lleh@jewishcanton.org or call (330) 445-2850.

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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES EVENTS

AUGUST

To RSVP to events, please email Leanne at lleh@jewishcanton.org or call (330) 445-2850

5 LUNCHEON SOCIAL | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 AT 11:30 A.M.

6 spots are available for minivan transportation

Please contact Leanne at LLehn@JewishCanton.org for location and other details.

RSVP Deadlines: July 29 for provided transportation, Aug. 3 for self-transportation

19 JUDAISM, POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY, AND THE QUEST FOR HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH AT 10:00 A.M.

With Peggy Stabholz, M.A., and Rabbi David Komerofsky, Ph.D. Refreshments provided.

RSVP Deadline: Aug. 17

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS OF JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

WRITTEN BY: HEATHER HERSHEY-TOMPKINS



The success of the Friends Campaign reflects the extraordinary generosity and warmth of our community. On behalf of Jewish Family Services, thank you to every individual, family, and organization who contributed this year and reminded our neighbors they are not alone.

While donors may never meet the people whose lives are touched by their giving, the true recipients are our neighbors who rely on JFS every day. Because 100% of funds raised go directly to JFS, your gift sustains case management, guardianship, adult programming, outreach to isolated community members, and the many other services that help people live with dignity, independence, and connection.

Every gift, regardless of size, is a statement that our community cares, an investment in the well-being of neighbors, friends, and loved ones we may never meet.

To everyone who participated, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your kindness makes a meaningful difference in countless lives.

If you haven't yet made a contribution and would like to become a Friend of Jewish Family Services, donation envelopes are available at the front desk, or checks may be made payable to Canton Jewish Community Federation with "Friends Campaign" in the memo line.

This is what community looks like. Thank you for being part of it.

JUDAISM, POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY, AND THE QUEST FOR HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING

Throughout the month of August, visitors to the Beit Ha'am lobby are invited to explore a new educational display, Judaism, Positive Psychology, and the Quest for Happiness and Well-Being, prepared by Peggy Stabholz and Rabbi David Komerofsky. The exhibit examines the fascinating intersection between ancient Jewish wisdom and the modern science of happiness and human flourishing.



While Positive Psychology emerged as a formal movement in the late twentieth century, many of its core findings echo values that have been central to Jewish life for centuries. The display explores how Jewish teachings on gratitude (*hakarat hatov*), kindness (*chesed*), and community (*kehillah*) align with contemporary research on well-being and resilience.

Featured throughout the exhibit are several influential Jewish psychologists whose work helped shape the field, including Abraham Maslow, Martin Seligman, Ed Diener, and Sonya Lyubomirsky. Visitors will learn how their research has deepened our understanding of happiness, meaning, social connection, and personal growth, while also discovering striking parallels between their findings and traditional Jewish teachings.

The exhibit also explores the distinction between short-term pleasure and deeper, purpose-driven well-being, inviting visitors to consider how meaningful relationships, acts of kindness, gratitude practices, and communal engagement contribute to a fulfilling life.

In addition to the historical presentation, the display offers practical insights that visitors can apply in their own lives. Through quotations, research findings, Jewish texts, and reflective questions, the exhibit encourages each person to consider simple actions that can increase happiness, strengthen relationships, and cultivate a greater sense of purpose.

The display will be available throughout August in the Beit Ha'am lobby. Community members and guests are encouraged to stop by, explore the panels, and discover how Jewish tradition and modern psychology together offer pathways toward greater happiness and well-being.

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WRITTEN BY: LAURA GOLDMAN, PRESIDENT

Each September, the Canton Jewish Community Federation asks for your support through our Annual Campaign. But do you know what your contribution makes possible? Do you know where those dollars go?

When you make a gift to our campaign, you are not simply making a donation—you are investing in the strength and vitality of Jewish life in Stark County. Your contributions remain here at home, providing critical and compassionate services through Jewish Family Services. These funds help ensure that our children, families, and older adults receive the case management, counseling, and food assistance they need to thrive.

Your support also helps build the future of our community through meaningful educational and youth programming. From Holocaust education and awareness initiatives to scholarships that enable our students to attend Jewish summer camps, and support for Hillel programs that keep our college students connected to Jewish life, every dollar helps the next generation develop a strong and lasting connection to their heritage.

At the same time, we recognize that we are part of a global Jewish people. As members of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), we dedicate a portion of our campaign resources to strengthening our connection with Israel. Our Federation has chosen to support the Western Galilee Partnership2Gether program, fostering meaningful relationships and exchanges between our community and our partners in Israel. We have witnessed these connections come to life through visits from remarkable individuals over the years, including Chef Uri, The Families of Oct. 7 (Golan, Shimon & Meital), The Attallah Doctors and the Dayan Family concert. These guests have all shared their experiences, culture and stories with us.

By giving to the Federation, you help sustain the institutions and programs that bring us together, care for those in need, educate future generations, and strengthen our connection to the broader Jewish world. Your Board of Trustees believes deeply in the importance of a vibrant Federation for Canton and Stark County, and we remain committed to supporting these essential efforts for years to come.

We cannot do this without you. Your continued generosity makes this work possible and ensures that no member of our community is left behind.

Please join us for our Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership, and commitment to our community.

Hineini—"Here I Am." As always, I am here for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas.





BLINTZ SOUFFLE

ACTIVE TIME **15 MINUTES**
TOTAL TIME: **60 MINUTES**

WRITTEN BY: MARY DONNA RUBIN

Blintz soufflé is a wonderful option for a Shabbat Kiddush. While kugel (noodle pudding) is a standard dish for most dairy luncheons, blintz soufflé is a delicious alternative that is surprisingly simple to make.

Traditional blintzes originated from within the Ashkenazi Jewish communities of Central and Eastern Europe, mostly in the Slavic cultures such as Russia or Ukraine. They evolved from thin, traditional Slavic pancakes made from wheat or buckwheat flour known as “bliny” or “blinchiki.” The word “blintz” is a derivative of the Yiddish word “blintse” and the Slavic word “blinets” or “blinyet,” meaning “little pancake.”

These crepe-like cakes are typically rolled or folded around a sweet or savory filling and then pan fried or baked until golden brown. Cheese, strawberry, or blueberry fillings are popular choices for sweet blintzes, while savory options may include seasoned ground meat, potatoes, or mushrooms.

Blintzes are most popular during the Jewish holiday of Shavuot and are commonly enjoyed for breakfast during Yom Kippur.

Our dear friend and wonderful cook, Becky Zoldan, introduced me to blintz soufflé during this past Shavuot, which was incredibly delicious. I chose to serve the dish at a recent Kiddush luncheon and hope that you will try the recipe yourself!

3 Tbs. butter
4 eggs (beaten)
3 (13-oz.) packages frozen cheese, blueberry, or strawberry-filled blintzes (you can use a mixture or one flavor of blintzes)
1 ½ C. sour cream
1 ¼ C. white sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
¼ - ½ C. orange juice

PREHEAT oven to 350°. Melt the butter in a 2-qt. casserole pan or a 9x13 deep-dish baking pan. Place the frozen blintzes on top of the butter close together (almost touching one another) and in a single layer.

MIX together the eggs, sour cream, sugar, vanilla extract, and orange juice until thoroughly combined. Pour the mixture over the blintzes, completely covering them.

BAKE around 45 minutes until the top is lightly browned and a toothpick inserted into the center of the casserole comes out clean. Cool and serve with a side of raspberry, grape, peach, strawberry, or apricot jam.

NOTE: Add two 8-oz. blocks of cubed cream cheese to the sour cream and/or ½ C. ricotta cheese for added creaminess and thickness, if desired.

AUGUST

SERVICE SCHEDULES

SHAARAY TORAH

SHABBAT SERVICES

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
Note: Zoom-only service on Saturday, August 1

MORNING SERVICES

Mondays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.
on Zoom

EVENING SERVICES

Monday through Friday weekly,
5:30 p.m. on Zoom

CANDLES

Friday, August 7: 8:20 p.m.
Friday, August 14: 8:11 p.m.
Friday, August 28: 7:50 p.m.
Friday, August 21: 8:01 p.m.

TEMPLE ISRAEL

All services are in-person. Friday night livestreams via YouTube and the Temple Israel website. Stollen Moments Torah Study is in-person and via Zoom. See more information at TempleIsraelCanton.org/shabbat

SHABBAT SERVICES

Fridays: 5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat,
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service

SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, August 14 – Oneg Shabbat:
Blessing of the Pets: bring your pets for the Oneg Shabbat and enjoy the service outside via livestream with friends.
Friday, August 14 – Shabbat Service:
Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

TORAH STUDY

Saturday, August 15 at 10:00 a.m.

STRANGERS IN THE PALACE: JEWS AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Wednesdays at 7PM, September 16 – October 21
What happens when Jews gain influence in societies where they remain a minority? Explore Jewish leaders throughout history and the challenges of leadership, identity, and belonging. Six weeks In person & Zoom. Taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky

INTRO TO JUDAISM

Sundays 1-2PM, starting Sunday, September 27
Introduction to Judaism is an eight-week course covering Jewish beliefs, traditions, holidays, prayer, and history. The course is open to all - no prerequisites, just your curiosity. This course can count towards the classwork component for the conversion process with Temple Israel for those taking the class locally. In person & Zoom. Taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky Learn more at templeisraelcanton.org/intro.

AGUDAS ACHIM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Shabbos Parshas Eikev
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:45 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:08 p.m.
Shabbos ends 9:28 p.m.
Maariv 9:40 p.m.

Havdalah 9:53 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.
Shacharis 7:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Mincha & Kabbalas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 8:15 p.m.
Sunset 8:33 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Shabbos Parshas Re'eh
Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:45 a.m.
The Molad (new moon) for the month of Elul:
Shabbos (August 13) 8:15 a.m. + 0 chalakim
Earliest Mincha 2:06 p.m.
Shabbos ends 9:18 p.m.
Maariv 9:30 p.m.
Havdalah 9:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.
Shacharis will be on Wednesday morning

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

Shacharis 7:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

First Day Rosh Chodesh Elul

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

Second Day Rosh Chodesh Elul
Mincha & Kabbalas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 8:06 p.m.
Sunset 8:24 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Shabbos Parshas Shoftim
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:45 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:05 p.m.
Shabbos ends 9:08 p.m.
Maariv 9:20 p.m.
Havdalah 9:36 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.
Shacharis 7:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Mincha & Kabbalas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 7:56 p.m.
Sunset 8:14 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Shabbos Parshas Ki Seitzei
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:45 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 2:02 p.m.
Shabbos ends 8:57 p.m.
Maariv 9:10 p.m.

Havdalah 9:26 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.
Shacharis 7:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Mincha & Kabbalas Shabbos 7:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 7:45 p.m.
Sunset 8:03 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Shabbos Parshas Ki Savo
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:45 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 1:59 p.m.
Shabbos ends 8:45 p.m.
Maariv 9:00 p.m.
Havdalah 9:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

LIFE CYCLES

BIRTH

- Ezra Teague Powell, born June 17, 2026. Proud grandparents are Fran and Herman Ransom.

DEATHS

- **Marla Goldberg Eslich** passed away on June 23, 2026. Marla is survived by her mother, Barbara Goldberg, and siblings Debra (Jon) Hemminger and Hyla (Nick Guerriere).
- **Vivian Rosengard** passed away on July 3, 2026. Vivian is survived by her children Jeff (Barb) Rosengard, Phil (late Melanie) Rosengard, and Nancy Rosengard; and several grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.
- **Paula Bloom** passed away on July 4, 2026. Paula is survived by her son, Stephen Bloom (wife, Linda deceased 2025), and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



JOSEPH ZOLDAN JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 73 COLLEGE GRANT

This grant is available to Jewish high school seniors going on to college or other post-highschool education.

Interested students are asked to submit a one-page request to Michael Zoldan at mzoldan@debtsales.us



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

11:30 A.M. Luncheon Social (JFS/CJCF Adult Program)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

7:00 P.M. Temple Israel Board meeting

WED., AUG. 19

10:00 A.M. Judaism, Positive Psychology, and the Quest for Happiness and Well-Being (JFS/CJCF Adult Program)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

2:30 P.M. Yiddish Club

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

6:00 P.M. Canton Jewish Federation Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

7:00 P.M. Temple Israel Board meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:00 P.M. Strangers in the Palace

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:00 P.M. Strangers in the Palace

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

2:30 P.M. Yiddish Club

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

1:00 P.M. Intro to Judaism

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7:00 P.M. Strangers in the Palace

NOTEABLE DATES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Rosh Hashana

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Yom Kippur

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Sukkot

COMMUNITY NOTE:

The Jane Zoldan Blood Drive committee will **not** host a blood drive this year. We are grateful for the community's ongoing support and look forward to seeing you next summer!

DONATIONS

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

- Leslie and David Nelson, In Appreciation of Doug and Melissa Blocker
- Leslie and David Nelson, In Appreciation of Bill and Diane Blocker
- Jeff and Dale Sklar, In Honor of Rabbi David Komerofsky for Obtaining His Doctorate
- Susan and Sam Wilkof, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- John and Barb Spera, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Denise and Steve Nielsen, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Mark and Judy Tenenbaum, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Mary Ann Berkeley, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Richard and Teodora Kopp, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Bill and Randi Smuckler, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Debbie and Michael Spetich, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Hazzan Bruce and Dianne Braun, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Hazzan Bruce and Dianne Braun, In Memory of Paula Bloom
- J. Edward and Janet Diamond, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES CON'T.

- Barbara and Bob Ferne, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Diane Friedman, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Patti Becker, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Karen Weinstein, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Kay K. Phillips, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Carolyn D. Greene, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Jeff Slesnick and Terry Wilmlink, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Bill and Randi Smuckler, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Leslie and David Nelson, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard

LEE KARELITZ FAMILY PHILANTHROPIC FUND

- Jan Einhorn, Birthday Club
- Paulette Karelitz, Birthday Club
- Paulette Karelitz, In Honor of Jeff Sklar
- Tom & Cheryl Herrick, Birthday Club
- Janet & Greg Luntz, Birthday Club

CJCF 2026 CAMPAIGN

- In Memory of David A. Fettman from Gloria Fettman
- David and Jessica Whitehill

L'CHAIM 47 FUND

- In Honor of Ori Akrish from Bryan Hecht

FOOD BANK

- Jeff and Dale Sklar, In Honor of Hazzan Bruce Braun's 50 Years of Dedicated Service to Shaaray Torah Synagogue
- Jeff and Dale Sklar, In Honor of the 50th Anniversary of Michael Zoldan's Bar Mitzvah Celebration
- Jeff and Dale Sklar, In Memory of Judy Tekel
- Jeff and Dale Sklar, Wishing Dori Smith a Speedy Recovery

CANTON JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

- David and Jessica Whitehill
- Greer and Ellery Langkamp
- Gloria Fettman, In Memory of David A. Fettman
- Stacy Kotelov, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Deborah Sussman, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Beth Shapiro Kopin & Ben Kopin, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Madelene Klein, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- AJ Maschke, Jr., In Memory of Vivian Rosengard
- Mary Ann Berkeley, In Memory of Vivian Rosengard

JANE ALTMAN ZOLDAN COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

- William Smuckler, In Honor of Michael Zoldan on the 50th Anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

**Donations recorded as of July 14, 2026*

JEWISH-AMERICAN ICONS

KIRK DOUGLAS

THE RAGMAN'S SON

WRITTEN BY: CHRIS LANGE AND ORI AKRISH

Before he was Kirk Douglas, before the Academy Award nominations, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a career that spanned more than six decades, he was Issur Danielovitch Demsky, the son of an impoverished Jewish ragman in Amsterdam, New York, a small town near Albany. It was a beginning he never escaped.

The Demsky family lived at the bottom of Eagle Street, where poverty was measured not by inconvenience but by hunger. Harry and Byrna Demsky, illiterate Jewish immigrants from what is now Belarus, were raising seven children on whatever Harry could earn collecting discarded rags, scrap metal, and bones with a horse-drawn wagon.



“

Even in the poorest section of town, where all the families were struggling, the ragman was on the lowest rung on the ladder. And I was the ragman's son.

”



His drinking and frequent disappearances left Byrna to stretch every penny and every meal.

As the family's only son, Issur learned early that childhood was a luxury. He sold candy and soda to mill workers to buy bread and milk. His mother made soup from butcher-shop scraps.

"When it was a good day, we would eat omelets made with water. When it was a bad day, we wouldn't eat at all."

The poverty was crushing. So was the prejudice. As the son of poor Jewish immigrants, Issur endured constant bullying and antisemitic taunts. Wrestling became an outlet for the anger he carried home each day. Acting became something even more important. It became an escape.

"There was an awful lot of rage churning around inside me. Rage that I was afraid to reveal."

That determination carried him farther than anyone on Eagle Street could have imagined. In 1935, with just \$167 in his pocket, Issur hitchhiked to St. Lawrence University (located 200 miles north, near the Canadian border and in the small town of Canton, New York) and persuaded Dean Edwin Hulett to admit him. Working campus jobs to pay his tuition, he excelled in wrestling, theater, and student leadership before graduating with a degree in English.

New York City followed, along with a scholarship to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. There he met another young actor trying to make her way, Lauren "Betty" Bacall. The friendship they formed would change his life. Douglas later recalled arriving in New York with little money and a threadbare overcoat.

"That winter, Betty saw me shivering in my thin overcoat. She didn't say anything, but talked her uncle into giving me one of his two thick coats. I wore it for three years."

He never forgot the gesture, affectionately calling Bacall his "lucky charm." His Broadway debut came in 1941, but

just weeks later the attack on Pearl Harbor changed everything. Douglas enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving as a communications and gunnery officer until a premature depth-charge explosion left him seriously injured. When he returned home in 1944, Hollywood was waiting. Bacall, now a rising star after *To Have and Have Not*, recommended her old friend to producer Hal B. Wallis. The role in *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers* launched his film career, but not before one more change.

ISSUR DANIELOVITCH DEMSKY BECAME KIRK DOUGLAS

Years later he acknowledged that his birth name was considered "too unwieldy and Semitic" for Hollywood. The new name opened doors, but it never erased the old life.

Douglas became one of Hollywood's defining leading men, earning three Academy Award nominations and appearing in more than ninety films. Audiences admired his intensity. Colleagues often found him demanding. The fierce ambition that had lifted him out of poverty also exacted a personal cost. Yet Douglas always understood where that drive came from.

"Little Issur has never left me. Sometimes I catch glimpses of him scurrying around. He wears a little shirt and his ass is bare. His face is dirty and smudged by tears. Often, I tried to kill him, but he never dies."

The boy from Eagle Street remained his constant companion. Perhaps no moment better reflected that journey than the premiere of *The Vikings* in 1958. Three years earlier Douglas had founded Byrna Productions, naming the company after his mother. When he escorted Byrna into the theater and her name appeared on the screen, she wept.

For Douglas, no Hollywood accolade could have meant more. His greatest reconciliation, however, came not with fame but with his past. In his bestselling 1988 autobiography, *The Ragman's Son*, Douglas wrote with remarkable tenderness about the father

who had embarrassed him as a child.

"I'd see him riding along on his wagon filled with junk and rags. I'd race ahead and jump up on the back of the wagon. I wanted so much to let him know that I wasn't ashamed of him. I wanted so much to let him know how much I loved him."

It was an extraordinary admission from a man once known for his toughness.

Another turning point came in 1991 when Douglas survived a helicopter collision that claimed two other lives. As he recovered, he found himself asking why he had survived.

"I came to believe that I was spared because I had never come to grips with what it means to be Jewish."

The experience transformed him. Douglas immersed himself in Torah study, celebrated a second bar mitzvah at age 83, and, together with his wife Anne, expanded the family's charitable foundation. Their philanthropy supported hospitals, homeless services, Alzheimer's care, and programs for people with disabilities. One project, "Harry's Haven," honored the father whose struggles had shaped so much of Douglas's own life.

When Kirk Douglas died in 2020 at the age of 103, tributes celebrated one of the last great stars of Hollywood's Golden Age. His son Michael offered perhaps the simplest and most fitting remembrance.

"To the world, he was a legend... But to me and my brothers... he was simply Dad."

For all the fame, wealth, and acclaim that followed, Kirk Douglas never truly left Eagle Street. The frightened Jewish boy who chased after his father's wagon, determined to love a man the world looked down upon, remained at the center of his identity. In the end, that may have been his greatest achievement. It was not that he escaped being the ragman's son. It was that he finally embraced it.



FAITH & FOOTBALL

The Canton Jewish Community Federation welcomed Pro Football Hall of Famer Andre Tippett and his wife Rhonda to Beit Ha'am on June 11, thanks to a partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame, for a night the room won't forget. More than 70 guests joined to hear Federation CEO Ori Akrish sit down with the Patriots' all-time sack leader, 100 career sacks and five Pro Bowls worth of proof that this man never took a play off, for a conversation that hit just as hard off the field as he once did on it.

Raised Baptist, Tippett didn't just adopt Rhonda's faith when they married, he studied it, sat with rabbis, and made it his own, running his own route toward a life he

chose. "His path to Judaism was not inherited," Akrish told the crowd. "It was earned." That same discipline shows up in the more than 50 years he's spent training in Uechi Ryu karate, where he holds a 7th-degree black belt. Tikkun olam, the call to repair the world, came up again and again all night, the value Tippett lives out in his work fighting antisemitism and building a Jewish home with Rhonda and their children.

Now Executive Director of Community Affairs for the Patriots, Tippett left the room with a message for this moment: even in a hard time to be Jewish, showing up for one another is the whole point. We look forward to welcoming Andre and his family into the Jewish Canton community for years to come.

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ANNUAL MEETING

Thurs., Sept. 3, 2026
6 PM at Beit Ha'am
Dessert reception to follow.



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THE DARK, WE ONLY FIND MORE
WAYS TO SHINE!



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CANTON
JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

Yiddish Club

LED BY RABBI A.J. KUSHNER

Meetings are held on the last
Thursday of every month:
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Beit Ha'am Library

Cost is FREE. All are welcome.